

Washington Post Covers U.S. Labor Party Organizing For Whig Coalition

Under the headline "When Left Reaches Right" the Aug. 16 Washington Post reports on the alliance the National Caucus of Labor Committees and the U.S. Labor Party is building with conservatives and political independents. The two thousand word article by Paul Valentine, which notes the USLP's support for an "industrial capitalist republic," jumps to page eight where it is joined by a second article on U.S. Labor Party Virginia gubernatorial candidate Alan Ogden, "Ogden Hopes to be Spoiler in Va. Race". Excerpts from both articles appear below.

When Left Reaches Right

This is a story about the shadow world of American extremist politics...

Begin with the National Caucus of Labor Committees, an obscure New York-based organization.

One of the most volatile and militant groups in the country, NCLC has until recently preached that it was on the verge of leading America to socialist revolution and smashing the "Rockefeller-Carter-CIA-controlled proto-fascist state."

In an abrupt switch late last year, it began to mute the talk of revolution and said it must now push instead for creation of an "industrial capitalist republic" under a "Whig" government with a 19th-century Hamiltonian banking system. The socialist state will apparently come later.

Meanwhile, NCLC is actively forging alliances with its erstwhile natural enemy — the American right. To wit:

* Liberty Lobby, an ultraconservative group based in Washington, has advertised and sold copies of a 129-page report by NCLC describing what NCLC says is a "terrorist" apparatus of government agencies, private research groups and political organizations coordinated by the Carter Administration, the Central Intelligence Agency and Rockefeller interests to "deindustrialize" America and go to war with the Soviet Union by 1978.

* *Spotlight*, Liberty Lobby's newspaper, praised NCLC as "probably the only 'honest' Marxist group in the U.S. because it is not supported by Rockefeller money, as are all similar groups."

* Lyndon H. LaRouche, 54, NCLC's leader and 1976 presidential candidate, has hired as his personal security adviser Mitchell L. WerBell III, an Atlanta-based firearms manufacturer and fervid anti-Communist who assisted Cuban strongman Fulgencio Batista until Fidel Castro's takeover in 1959. La Rouche claims he is an assassination target of the Maoist "Baader-Meinhof" organization in West Germany and needs protection.

* NCLC's political arm, the U.S. Labor Party, has joined several conservative groups and individuals including right-wing Republicans in court suits alleging

1976 presidential election irregularities in Wisconsin, Ohio, Pennsylvania and New York. The court actions have been largely unsuccessful so far.

* The Federal Election Commission has called NCLC and Liberty Lobby on the carpet. It is checking the validity of NCLC's campaign contributors list and questioning Liberty Lobby about a *Spotlight* article suggesting that Jimmy Carter's campaign coffers were replenished by a Georgia-based drug-rock music promotion scheme. The two groups have publicly taken solace in their joint plight, accusing the FEC of Gestapo tactics to inhibit political activity outside the mainstream Democratic and Republican parties.

* NCLC has been harshly critical of the "liberal" conservation and energy-saving policies of the Carter Administration, blasting them as "antitechnology" austerity schemes calculated to return Western civilization to feudal serfdom.

* Earlier this month, NCLC sent national committee member Jerry Rose to Memphis to sell its Hamiltonian national bank proposal to a conference of independent conservatives convened by a faction of the old segregationist American Independent Party of Alabama Gov. George C. Wallace. Conference leaders agreed to study the proposal.

* NCLC, which claims to have its own elaborate intelligence-gathering network, has intensified its practice of criticizing other leftist organizations and on occasion has "briefed" local police departments and the FBI on planned leftist activity. It has also briefed aides to Rep. Larry McDonald (D-Ga.), a John Birch Society member who frequently publishes critical reports in the Congressional Record about what he says are violence-prone leftist groups, including NCLC.

* In April, NCLC representatives met with the New Hampshire State Police to warn them that the anti-nuclear Clamshell Alliance demonstration planned at the Seabrook nuclear power plant site was a terrorist action concocted by the Rockefeller forces to foment violence. (No violence occurred during the May protest at which some 1,400 demonstrators were arrested.) An NCLC spokesman said at a press conference later that NCLC had relied in part for its assessment of the demonstration on an intelligence report called *Information Digest*, published by John H. Rees. Rees is a former D.C. police informant who now provides research assistance to McDonald on Capitol Hill.

NCLC's new alignment and rhetoric have left law enforcement authorities scratching their heads and fueled speculation among NCLC's conspiracy-minded competitors on the left — the Socialist Workers Party and the Communist Party, for example — that NCLC is aiding the police, the far right, big business — or all three.

Among right-wing activists who have been courted by NCLC, there is generally a cynical acceptance, a

suspicion that NCLC is out to help itself and full knowledge of its origins in the Marxist-oriented Students for a Democratic Society...

The FBI, which maintains extensive files on NCLC, including excerpts from Rees' *Information Digest*, describes NCLC in a memorandum as a "clandestinely oriented group of political schizophrenics who have a paranoid preoccupation with Nelson Rockefeller and the CIA." Another FBI memorandum obtained by *the Washington Post* calls NCLC a "violence-oriented Marxist revolutionary organization."

The New York-based group, estimated by various law enforcement agencies to have 700 to 1,000 hard-core members nationwide, is known for its militancy, authoritarian internal structure and the almost messianic zeal of its followers.

With unrelenting urgency, NCLC members preach two somewhat varying Rockefeller-CIA master plots: one, to destabilize society and trigger civil unrest by instigating labor strikes, hijackings, power blackouts and race riots to justify a police-state crackdown; the other, to deindustrialize society and convert workers into passive drones willing to do rote work by permissive use of marijuana and other drugs.

Officials of NCLC acknowledge their newly formed nexus with the right wing but say there is nothing mysterious or contradictory about it.

The right wing shares NCLC's suspicion of a Rockefeller-big money conspiracy, they say, as well as NCLC's opposition to decriminalization of marijuana and other "liberal" drug politics.

Paul Goldstein, NCLC's security and counterintelligence chief, said NCLC asked Liberty Lobby to plug NCLC's Carter "terrorism" report "because we wanted to get the word out as widely as possible."

The conventional daily press "was not going to do it," he said, "because, of course, they're controlled by the Rockefeller forces."

Willis Carto, treasurer of Liberty Lobby, said the lobby sold about 200 copies of the report and an accompanying index for \$5 each during the 1976 presidential campaign. The Lobby's *Spotlight* newspaper gave the report a favorable review in its Oct. 11, 1976, issue, warning only against "occasional distortions and omissions to be found in any Marxist-leaning polemic."

"It's not a matter of the right and the left getting together," said Goldstein. "Of course, there are basic differences, but in the framework of the anti-Carter, anti-Rockefeller, pro-nuclear technology issues, we're in agreement."

"We see eye to eye with them on that," echoed Carto.

WerBell, the tough-talking gun manufacturer and security adviser to NCLC's LaRouche, says NCLC hired him when it learned the radical Baader-Meinhof, or "Red Morning," organization planned to assassinate LaRouche during his current visit to West Germany. Persons identifying themselves as members of the Red Morning group claimed responsibility for the July 30 terrorist murder of prominent West German bank executive Juergen Ponto.

"Yeah, I know," said WerBell in a telephone interview from his suburban Atlanta home, "a lot of people say they (NCLC) are a bunch of Commies. I don't know what in the hell they are."

A former guerrilla operative for the Office of Strategic Services in World War II, WerBell said he agreed to take the LaRouche job irrespective of NCLC's politics because "if a guy's in danger, I bark like a Doberman. That's my job."

Of NCLC, WerBell said, "Sometimes they're to the right of Genghis Khan."

...Asked where NCLC fits into the political spectrum, Costas Axios, NCLC's chief of staff in New York, said:

"We are socialist, but first we must establish an industrial capitalist republic and rid this country of Rockefeller anti-industrial, antitechnology, monetarist dictatorship of today."

Once the capitalist republic is established, Axios said, concurrent global economic development will occur, "and we will enter into a period of the highest prosperity the world has ever known."

With society expanding and material progress being made, "you win over people's minds, he said, and under an advanced technology including fusion power, there "will be a trend" toward government of a socialist state.

Ogden Hopes To Be Spoiler In Va. Race

RICHMOND — Alan Robert Ogden rocks back on his thin metal chair and, for a moment or two, seems to be another of those young, earnest conservatives that this city, the capital of the Confederacy, is known for producing.

Virginia's economic troubles can be largely traced back to the Civil War and the way the South was treated during Reconstruction, he says. There are few political themes more popular here, except, perhaps, money, and Ogden quickly touches that.

The dollar is in bad shape, because, he says, it is no longer backed by gold. Worst of all to Ogden's way of thinking is the fact that no one, including the Democratic and Republican candidates for governor this year, seem to realize how much good Virginia Electric and Power Co., the state's big utility, has done. "Vepco," Ogden snaps, "has got to be defended."

For all these reasons, the mellow-voiced Ogden, 31, a University of Virginia honors graduate, should be just the candidate to sweep local voters off their feet in the Nov. 8 state elections.

The only trouble is: Ogden is a socialist, a Marxist, firmly committed to the belief that the world is on the edge of a nuclear holocaust ("There could be nuclear war any day," he insists.) and that he — not Democrat Henry E. Howell or Republican John N. Dalton — is the man Virginians will elect as their next governor.

Although no major state politician shares Ogden's confidence, there are some who fear that Ogden and his 50-member Virginia Labor Party may be able to capture enough votes this fall to affect the outcome of the expected close race between Howell and Dalton. Ogden, who has gathered from 10.4 percent to 12.8 percent of the vote in his three previous political races in Virginia, makes no secret that he would like to do just that.

"I hope I ruin Henry Howell's chance of getting the office," Ogden said the other day as he sat in the 10-by-12-foot cubicle in a small office building in south Richmond

that serves as headquarters for both his campaign and the Virginia Labor Party.

A curved wooden pipe in one hand, jet black hair closely cropped, dressed in a button-down white shirt, tan slacks and worn Hush Puppies shoes, the 6 feet 4, 200-pound Ogden resembles a Marine home on leave rather than a radical politician. To most Virginia politicians, Ogden has clearly become an enigma that most wish would disappear.

"I just don't know how to regard Ogden's candidacy," said Howell campaign manager William Rosendahl. "Your guess is as good as mine." Thus far both Howell and Dalton have chosen to ignore Ogden — a task one Dalton aide said isn't easy when groups like the Richmond Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce place him at the head table along with the two major candidates.

Dalton press secretary Richard Lobb said he doubts that Ogden can be as effective in this campaign as he was running in a head-to-head race against U.S. Rep. David Satterfield (D-Va.), one of the Richmond area's most conservative politicians. Allowing for an anti-Satterfield "protest" vote, Lobb described the one out of every 10 votes that Ogden got in those two races as an "incredible" and "huge" percentage.

"Lood, I don't think Henry Howell would be a good governor, but knowing what I know about this group, I'd rather people vote for Howell," said Lobb. He isn't alone in his misgivings about the Labor Party.

The FBI, fearing the Labor Party was part of a national group bent on taking control of the nation's government, by force if necessary, conducted widespread surveillance of the Virginia party and its members for years. According to copies of FBI field reports the U.S. Labor Party obtained under the Freedom of Information Act, Ogden and his now estranged wife were being watched from the time they began organizing efforts in the Hampton Roads area in 1972 until 1976.

Claiming that the documents are "the tip of the iceberg," Ogden and the party's 26-year-old Virginia chairman, John Asher, sued FBI Director Clarence Kelley and a half-dozen Richmond and state officials charging them with circulating "a false picture of Alan Ogden as a violence-prone revolutionary terrorist." Ogden charged that a result of the FBI investigation has been "an ongoing conspiracy" against him and the party by Virginia police since 1974.

In that period, there have been at least 24 arrests of party members on various charges growing out of their political activities, the suit alleged. Ogden himself was arrested nine times, convicted twice and acquitted seven times, the suit said.

Surprisingly, Ogden's allegations have won sympathy here from an unlikely source, U.S. District Court Judge D. Dortch Warriner. Last month the conservative

Republican jurist halted a state judge from ordering Ogden off to prison and called Ogden's conspiracy allegation "a grave and a serious charge" that merited further study.

"Though it is difficult to believe that in this 201st year of our nation such a charge could be true, it is not wholly incredible and the undenied facts permit an inference consonant with the charge," he said.

Richmond officials, in their response to the suit, have said their attempt to imprison Ogden was a "routine procedure" that they began this spring after Ogden lost a lengthy appeals battle over a 1976 trespass conviction. Normally, final court action in such a case should trigger action to revoke a 12-month suspended sentence Ogden received in 1974 and make him serve that sentence also, the city officials said.

"Like other convicted individuals (Ogden) cannot use campaigns for political office to keep (himself) out of jail if he has broken the law," Richmond Deputy Commonwealth's Attorney Stacy F. Garrett argued. Citing Maryland Gov. Marvin Mandel, he added in a court brief filed with Warriner, "even politicians in office may be prosecuted."

Since Warriner has not set a trial date for Ogden's suit, that leaves him free to continue his unorthodox campaigning around the state...

At times seemingly arrogant (he calls himself "absolutely and self-evidently more qualified" than Howell or Dalton), Ogden has neither political buttons or bumper stickers. He depends on copies of the Labor Party's national publications and foreign socialists he brings into the state, such as a defeated Swedish candidate for prime minister he plans to take to Danville next week, to carry his message...

On the political stump, Ogden's own rhetoric can be as calm as his praise for Vepco for pushing nuclear energy plants, a position that won him a laudatory editorial in a conservative Lynchburg newspaper. Or it can be as strident as his comments about Howell, who has long had the support of organized labor in the state. "Henry Howell is nothing but a Carter agent; a filthy Carter agent," Ogden sniffed the other day.

Ogden is more charitable toward Republican Dalton, although he accuses Dalton of having "foolishly chosen to amplify Howell's treacherous policies" by recently questioning Vepco's atomic power plant construction costs. Vepco's commitment to atomic power is the reason Ogden said he firmly supports the controversial utility.

Dalton's campaign worker Lobb, for one, wasn't surprised that Ogden and his small band managed to get the needed 15,000 signatures to put Ogden's name on the ballot this fall as an independent. "In this state, you can get people to sign petitions against bad weather," he said.